



Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 22, 2022

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace
The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want
O Lord Most Holy (Panis Angelicus)

Olive Dungan
Scottish Psalter, 1650
Cesar Franck

Prelude

Amazing Grace

Christopher Pardini

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Ministry: Family Promise of NewRock

✦ Call to Worship

Psalm 67

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

Let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy.

Let the peoples praise you, O God.

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us!

✦ Hymn 403

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

UNSER HERRSCHER

✦ Call to Confession

✦ Community Confession

adapted from Rev. Molly Spangler

Grace giving God,

you ask us to love and to keep your word.

Simple instructions.

Yet, even with the Advocate to help us,

we still fail at loving and following faithfully.

We choose not to listen.

Every time we fail,

speak to us again of your truths.

Keep telling us over and over again,

so that one day soon,

we hear your words and believe.

Amen.

✦ **Hymn 695**

Change My Heart, O God

CHANGE MY HEART

✦ **Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness**

Church, we are forgiven!
We are free to try again.

✦ **Passing of the Peace**



Proclaiming the Word

Wondering with God's Children

Anthem

Beautiful River
(Shall We Gather At The River)

Words and Music by Rev. Robert Lowry
Arr. William Hawley

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

Acts 16:9-15

Message

Surprise! An Amazing Detour

Reverend Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✦ **Hymn 451**

Open My Eyes, That I May See

OPEN MY EYES

✦ **Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born
of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he
descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into
heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall
come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the
forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory

Open the Eyes of My Heart
Perri and Dan Walden

Text and Music by Paul Baloche

✦Response

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (Doxology)

OLD HUNDREDTH

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.***

Prayer of Gratitude

All are invited to join in our community Prayer of Gratitude by lifting up a one word prayer of thanksgiving.



Being the Church in the World

✦Hymn 295

Go to the World!

SINE NOMINE

✦Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Carillon de Westminster

Louis Vierne

We invite you to remain seated until the conclusion of the instrumental postlude. The postlude is an integral part of the act of worship, offered to assist our prayer and contemplation, to kindle our imaginations, to reflect on words just spoken, and to connect us to God.



Worship Notes

Musical offerings are an act of worship. If you wish to express thanks to God at the conclusion of a musical offering, feel free to offer a hearty "Amen," a Biblical way of saying "so be it!" and affirming spiritual gifts. Music printed in our bulletin and streamed online is covered by One License # A-728738 authorizing their use.

Contact Cards

There are new Contact Cards in each pew. We ask that all visitors sign in each week and place the Contact Card in the offering plate. If you are a visitor or interested in church membership, signing in gives a way to contact you. Members may also choose to fill out a contact card if their contact information has changed or if they would like to get more involved in the church. Please indicate if you are open to options or are drawn to a certain form of involvement.

Worship Bags for Children

The bags are labeled with children's name tags clipped to their bag, and they are invited to use the same bag each time they come to worship. For our visitors and newcomers, we have bags labeled "Child of God." The bags are available in the narthex.

Nursery for Children

Nursery care is available for children newborn through first grade. Our nursery is located on the lower level. Please ask an usher to direct you. Children are also welcome to wiggle and giggle in the pew.

Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley, Kraig Howell

Acolyte | Alexander Whisnant

Usher Chair | Ed Perkerson



Sermon Series

The women at the empty tomb experienced the ultimate surprise discovering the Lord had Risen, indeed! This element of the surprise of God continues throughout our biblical story. For the next several weeks, we will explore together the surprising acts of God through our study of Acts in worship. We will come to welcome an unpredictable God and to expect the unexpected! We will witness Peter having a change of heart. We will be surprised by a holy friendship between Ananias and Saul. We will meet Dorcus and Lydia this Eastertide. Our study on the book of Acts will conclude on the day of Pentecost! Surprise!

"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability" (Acts 2:4 NRSV)

You are invited to explore the unlikely, ironic, and surprising stories in the book of Acts this May!

- Neeley



Worship Music

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

Benjamin Schmolck (d.1737), the author of this text, was born in Silesia and was considered a splendid preacher, poet, and hymn writer. When he preached his first sermon in his father's pulpit, an influential member of the congregation was so impressed that he gave Schmolck a 3-year allowance to study theology. At the University of Leipzig, he was influenced by Johannes Olearius and others from whom he received "a warm and living practical Christianity, but Churchly in tone and not Pietistic." He was ordained and served as assistant pastor with his father at Brauchitzchdorf. Schmolck was the best-loved hymn writer of his day and wrote 900 hymns. After the Thirty Years' War and the Peace of Westphalia, only one church and three clergy were permitted throughout an entire district of 36 villages. Schmolck ministered in this type of parish for the rest of his life. He was afflicted by strokes, partial paralysis, and cataracts.

Open My Eyes, That I May See

The author and composer of this hymn, Clara Scott (1897), was born in Elk Grove, Illinois. For much of her life, she taught music in the Ladies' Seminary at Lyons, Iowa. Scott wrote many pieces for voice and instruments, including *The Royal Anthem Book* (1882), the first collection of anthems published by a woman. She died at Dubuque, Iowa. The phrase "Open my eyes" is drawn from Psalm 119:18.

Beautiful River

Robert Lowry was born in Philadelphia in 1826. His fondness for music was exhibited in his earliest years. As a child, he amused himself with the various musical instruments that came into his hands. At the age of 17, he joined the First Baptist Church of Philadelphia and soon became active as a Sunday School teacher and chorister. At the age of 22, he gave himself to the work of the ministry and entered upon a course of study at the University of Lewisburg, PA. At the age of 28, he graduated with the highest honors of his class. In the same year of his graduation, he entered upon the work of the ministry. While pastor at Lewisburg, he was also professor of belles lettres in the University and received the honorary degree of D. D. in 1875. He then went to Plainfield, NJ, where he became pastor of Park Avenue Church. In each of these fields, his work was crowned with marked success.

Dr. Lowry was a man of rare administrative ability, a most excellent preacher, a thorough Bible student, and whether in the pulpit or upon the platform, always a brilliant and interesting speaker. He was of a genial and pleasing disposition, and a high sense of humor was one of his most striking characteristics. Very few men had greater ability in painting pictures from the imagination. He could thrill an audience with his vivid descriptions, inspiring others with the same thoughts that inspired him.

"Shall We Gather at the River?" is perhaps, without question, the most widely popular of all his songs. Of this, Mr. Lowry said: "It is brass band music, has a march movement, and for that reason has become popular, though for myself I do not think much of it." Yet he tells us how, on several occasions, he had been deeply moved by the singing of that hymn. "Going from Harrisburg to Lewisburg once, I got into a car filled with half-drunken lumbermen. Suddenly one of them struck up the hymn, and they sang it over and over again, repeating the chorus in a wild, boisterous way. I did not think so much of the music then as I listened to those singers, but I did think that perhaps the spirit of the hymn, the words so flippantly uttered, might somehow survive and be carried forward into the lives of those careless men, and ultimately lift them upward to the realization of the hope expressed in my hymn."

"A different appreciation of it was evinced during the Robert Raikes' Centennial in London. After there had been a number of addresses delivered, I was preparing to leave when the chairman of the meeting announced that the author of "Shall We Gather at the River?" was present, and I was requested by name to come forward. Men applauded and women waved their handkerchiefs as I went to the platform. It was a tribute to the hymn; but I felt, when it was over, that, after all, I had perhaps done some little good in the world, and I felt more than ever content to die when God called." On Children's Day in Brooklyn, in 1865, this song was sung by over 40,000 voices.

Go To The World!

After a brief, arduous battle with liver cancer, Canadian Sylvia Dunstan, the writer of this hymn, died in 1993 at the age of 38. For 13 years, Dunstan had served the United Church of Canada as a parish minister and prison chaplain. She is remembered by those who knew her for her passion for those in need, her gift of writing, and her love of liturgy.

SINE NOMINE ("without a name") was composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Erik Routley reported that the tune was at first rejected as being "jazz music," while Percy Dearmer stated that this tune is "one of the finest hymn tunes of the present century." Today most authorities agree with Dearmer.

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

This form of the Doxology was written by Neil Weatherhogg in 1988. The first published form of the text was in *The Presbyterian Hymnal - Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs* (1990). It is an inclusive language versification originally used by the congregation of Harvey Browne Memorial Presbyterian Church, Louisville, Kentucky, where he is pastor and head of staff. This is the first published form of the text.



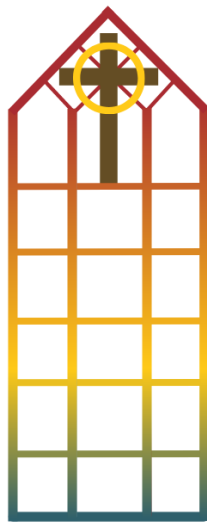
Worship Art

The children of our church are learning about the liturgical seasons by exploring worship art. The butterflies in worship this morning were crafted by our children. Although butterflies in the Bible aren't mentioned explicitly, their lifecycle is a remarkable illustration from nature of the transforming work of Jesus Christ in the lives of believers.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"
(2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT)

The word transform is *metamorpheo* in Greek, from which we get the English term metamorphosis. It describes the type of change a caterpillar undergoes to become a butterfly. The same word is used to explain Christ's transfiguration. The idea conveys a radical change or complete transformation. At Jesus' transfiguration, his physical appearance was temporarily metamorphosed from an ordinary human to a divine being in all his glory.

"As the men watched, Jesus' appearance was transformed so that his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light." (Matthew 17:2, NIV)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COVINGTON, GA

Want to Get Involved?

Reach out to become a more involved member of the church! We always have something happening that we would love for you to be a part of. You could be an integrated member of our church by volunteering with our witness team, becoming an usher, joining a book club, singing in the choir or any number of activities.

Reach out to the office and we'll point you in the right direction!

Email: catherine@fpccov.org or call: 770-786-7321

Deacons

Day Kennon (2022)
Eleanor Scarborough (2023)
Darcel Tabb (2024)
Alice Walker (2022)

Session

Class of 2022
Aubrey Evans
John McCarthy
Stephanie Scarborough
Trista Hooten Wilson

Class of 2023
Stan Hall
Louly Hay Kapp
Ed Perkerson
Bob Tabb

Class of 2024
Billy Fortson
Pat Harper
Brad Phillips
Curtis Watson

Mission Statement

Covington First Presbyterian Church is a Christian community existing to glorify God by welcoming all of God's children. We celebrate through serving, teaching, praying, eating, crying, singing, and dancing with the Holy Spirit. As works in progress, we seek to respond to God's presence in our church, lives, and community.

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane
Erin Morgan
Alicia Taylor
Alice Walker
Catherine Laseter
Peni Kehoe

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Director of Music & Worship Arts
CAGO, AAGO Organist/Ambassador Choir
Dir. of Communications & Operations
Finance Administrator

Caring for Our Children
in the Nursery
Danielle Schubert
Beverley Beasley
Kennedy Lynn

Sunday, May 22 Sixth Sunday of Easter

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 9:45am VBS Volunteer Training in the Fellowship Hall
- 11:00am Worship
- 12:00pm Session Meeting

Monday, May 23

Content Deadline for Summer Newsletter

- 12:00pm RSVP Deadline for Soul Feast
- 6:00pm Makeup VBS Training

Tuesday, May 24

- 12:00pm Lectio Divina
- 2:15pm Office Staff Meeting

Wednesday, May 25

- 10:00am Coffee and Conversation
- 1:30pm Singing Ambassadors Choir at FUMC
- 5:00pm Final Soul Feast - Brunswick Stew & Cornbread
- 6:00pm Pixar Movie Night: Ratatouille
- 6:00pm Carillon Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 26

- 9:30am Neeley visiting Merryvale
- 2:00pm Singing Ambassadors Choir at FPC
- 5:30pm Belief and Beer at Social Goat

Saturday, May 28

- 10:00am Funeral Service for Betty Robinson

Sunday, May 29 Seventh Sunday of Easter

- 9:45am No Sunday School for Memorial Day
- 11:00am Worship



REGISTER FOR VBS TODAY!

LIVING WATERS

FOR THE WORLD

Where: First Presbyterian Church Covington
 When: June 1-3, 9 am-12 pm
 Who: Children 3yrs-5th grade
 How: Vist FPCCOV.ORG

Volunteer Information also available at fpccov.org



SOUL FEAST

Wednesday Night Supper is back!
 Feed your body and soul with your FPC family.

Wednesdays 5:00 pm beginning May 4th
\$5 for adults, \$3 for kids

Ages 4 and under are free. Childcare is provided.
 Reserve your seat each Monday by noon:
 770-786-7321 or catherine@fpccov.org

On the Menu: Brunswick Stew and Cornbread

Give-A-Bell

We need more handbells for continued growth of our Carillon Bell Choir!

We are incredibly blessed as a church to have our current three octaves of handbells, and now we need to add a fourth.



Our Give-A-Bell fundraising effort provides an opportunity for all in our congregation to gift a handbell to the music ministry, allowing for growth of the bell choir by an additional five ringers! You may give a bell in your own name or in honor of a loved one.

Questions? Alicia Taylor at alicia@fpccov.org or 770-656-6848

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Prayer Requests

All prayer requests should be sent to:
catherine@fpccov.org

Requests will be removed after three weeks if not updated. Please specify if you want the request in the bulletin or for pastors only, or only the confidential prayer circle.



You are invited to
"Text to Give"
your offering. Text
FPCCOV to: 73256

Or point your camera at the
QR code above and follow the
link to give online.

Illness

- ✦ Larry Cox, brother-in-law of Randy Layton - cancer
- ✦ Guy McGiboney
- ✦ Tootles Tingler
- ✦ Bob Darby, friend of Jeff Mackenzie - leg amputated, kidney problems
- ✦ Rick Brown, brother of Sherri Bolton - bladder surgery
- ✦ Kim Bailey, family of Bernice and Betty Bailey
- ✦ Beverly Beasley, friend of Jean Elder - caring for husband who has leukemia
- ✦ Joe Burckel, nephew of Danny and Beth Vining - brain cancer
- ✦ Bobby Cocker, nephew of Judy Davis - colon cancer surgery
- ✦ Anne Cranford - breast cancer
- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa, sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie - home health care
- ✦ Cathy Martin, sister-in-law of Chris Martin - breast cancer
- ✦ Melissa, friend of the congregation - cancer

- ✦ Barbara Phillips, friend of Alice Walker - cancer
- ✦ Blair Weaver - health issues
- ✦ Joyce Williams, sister of Danny Vining - Alzheimer's

Condolences

- ✦ Our prayers are with the family and loved ones of Betty Robinson as they grieve her passing on the morning of May 17, 2022.

Independent and Assisted Living

- ✦ Penny Blakeney - home
- ✦ Julia Brubaker - Benton House
- ✦ Jean Elder - Florida with her daughter
- ✦ Dot Fincher - Merryvale
- ✦ Guy McGiboney - Social Circle Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
- ✦ Travis Moss - Westbury, Conyers
- ✦ Louise White - Merryvale

Military Service

- ✦ Billy Scarborough - Marines
- ✦ Koen Ardis - Navy

Saturday, May 28th at 10:00am the family of Betty Robinson will be holding a service in witness to the resurrection in the First Presbyterian Church sanctuary, officiated by Neeley Rentz Lane. A graveside committal will be held at Southview Covington Cemetery following the service. The family will then hold a time of remembrance and refreshments in the FPC Fellowship Hall. In lieu of flowers, the family asks you donate to the FPC Endowment Fund.

Kirkin' o' the Tartan

Sunday, September 25

Honor the Presbyterian Church's roots in the Church of Scotland in a special service that will include bag pipes, field drum, and a blessing of your family tartan

Order from Alicia Taylor by July 17th to receive your family tartan in time.
email: alicia@fpccov.org
call: 770-656-6848

The Gospel According to PIXAR

Ratatouille
Movie Night
May 25
at 6:00pm
in the Fellowship Hall
Join in the movie fun and dress up as your favorite Pixar character!

Then join us for all ages
Sunday School
June 12

Ratatouille
Passions, Purpose
and Pest Control